

## **RESOLUTION NO. 15-308**

**WHEREAS**, the City Council and the Mayor of the City of Huntsville, Alabama are apprised that a distinguished citizen, Willie Mingo Clark, departed this life on April 15, 2015, at the age of 83. Funeral services were held on April 24, 2015 at Union Chapel Missionary Baptist Church with Dr. Patrick Clayborn officiating; and,

**WHEREAS**, Willie Mingo Clark, the only child born to the late John C. and Margaret M. Perdew Clark, began his life's journey, October 12, 1931, in Troy Alabama. He was educated in the public schools of Troy, Alabama and graduated from Academy High School, where he was involved in a number of extra-curricular activities, mainly football, track and choir. Mr. Clark began his collegiate study at Alabama Agricultural and Mechanical College in 1950, where he sang in the College Choir and earned the B.S. Degree in Industrial Arts Education; and,

**WHEREAS**, he was drafted into the U.S. Army upon graduation and was honorably discharged two years later. After his tour of duty in the Army, Mingo continued his studies at AAMU, earning Master Degrees in Trade and Industrial Education and Administration and Supervision. Later, he earned his Ph.D. in Education; and,

**WHEREAS**, Mingo accepted Christ at an early age and was very active in his church, as he was gifted with a beautiful tenor voice. In 1957, he relocated to Huntsville and united with St. John A.M.E. Church where he served faithfully until his death. He served in numerous leadership roles including Trustee Board, Stewart Board, and several choirs. Dr. Clark was an avid educator and loved working with youth; and,

**WHEREAS**, he began his 35 year teaching career in 1956 as an Adult-Education teacher in Troy, Alabama. One year later, he accepted the Industrial Arts teaching position at Councill High School in Huntsville. In 1964, he became the Diversified Occupation Coordinator at Butler High School. It was here that he teamed up with local business leaders to start the Youth Opportunity Program which became the first high-school cooperative-education program in the state. Along with Dr. Werner Von Braun, Dr. Clark began arranging for students to work at Marshall Space Flight Center (MSFC) and the Army Missile Command. In 1972, Mingo left this teaching position at Butler and took an administrative position as assistant principal at Johnson High School where he served for 21 years until his retirement in 1993; and,

**WHEREAS**, his honors and awards were numerous and include Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc. "Man of the Year" and induction into the "District of Alabama Hall of Fame." He also served as Southern Regional Vice-President and Director of National Conventions. June 4, 1983 was declared "Willie Mingo Clark Day in Huntsville" by Mayor Joe Davis at a dinner given at the Carriage Inn in his honor. Recently,

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the North Alabama Educators Credit Union (NAECU) named the Sparkman Branch in his honor for his 30+ years of dedicated service as a board member. Professional and civic affiliations include HEA, AEA, NEA, AVA, AAMU Alumni Association, North Alabama Educators Credit Union (NAECU) Board, Athletic Booster Club (ABC Club), Kiwanis, and Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Incorporated ; and,

**WHEREAS**, Willie Mingo Clark leaves behind a loving and devoted wife, Lou Verlon Banks Clark; two daughters: Cassandra Clark Thompson (Tommy) of Huntsville, Al; and Beverly Hinckley (Stanley) of Cincinnati, OH; four granddaughters; two great granddaughters: one cousin; three sisters-in-law; one brother-in-law; one god daughter; and a host of nieces, nephews, extended family and friends.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the City Council and Mayor of the City of Huntsville, Alabama, express to his wife, family, relatives and friends their deepest sympathy in the loss of Willie Mingo Clark. The world has lost a noble character who left behind a beautiful life of kindness and humbleness.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that even as we mourn the passing of Willie Mingo Clark, we are resigned to the all-wise heavenly Father's will.

**ADOPTED** this the 14th day of May, 2015.

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President of the City Council  
of the City of Huntsville, Alabama

**APPROVED** this the 14th day of May, 2015.

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Mayor of the City of  
Huntsville, Alabama